

## Book Reviews.

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A TREATISE ON MENTAL DISEASES. *Based upon the Lecture Course at the Johns Hopkins University, 1899, and Designed for the Use of Practitioners and Students of Medicine.* By Henry J. Berkley, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, the Johns Hopkins University, Chief Visiting Physician to the City Insane Asylum, Baltimore. With Frontispiece, Lithographic Plates and Illustrations in the Text. New York: D. Appleton & Company. 1900.

The medical profession is to be congratulated that a comprehensive, practical work on mental diseases in English has at last in this book been presented to them. The dearth of treatises on this subject, especially those presenting it in a comprehensive and practical manner, and including not only the latest anatomy, histology and pathology of the central nervous system, but also a simple working classification of the different forms of mental disturbance and the best up-to-date treatment of them makes this volume very welcome. It will fill a long-felt want in the physician's library.

The author has divided the volume into three parts. *Part I* treats of the anatomy and histology of the central nervous system and is subdivided into six sections, as follows: *Section I*, Introductory, describing the meninges, the convolutions, the development of the fissures, and the arterial supply of the cerebrum; *Section II*, Histology of the cortex; *Section III*, the layers of the cortex; *Section IV*, the relation of the cortical elements to one another; *Section V*, the finer structure of the nerve cell; *Section VI*, the growth of the intra-cortical nerve fibres and cellular layers. *Part II* is on general pathology, and is subdivided into five sections and an *addendum*, thus: *Section I*, the boundary lines between degenerative and non-degenerative types of insanity; *Section II*, gross pathology; *Section III*, special pathology; *Section IV*, pathology of the cerebral vessels; *Section V*, syphilitic vascular lesions; and an *addendum* on "Arterial Anomalies in the Insane." *Part III*, consisting of five-sixths of the book, is devoted to the study of the clinical forms of mental diseases. In the first four chapters the author discusses the classification, general etiology, general symptomatology, and general therapy of mental disorders.

The existing confusion in the classification of mental diseases is due to the different bases upon which the various classifications have been made. A classification based upon clinical symptomatology is unsatisfactory, because the symptoms of one form of disease overlap those of another; while an etiological basis is also unsatisfactory, because the fundamental causation is frequently unknown and unascertainable. Berkley thinks that a classification based upon the morbid anatomy is much better than either of the two just mentioned. He has followed in this book the main lines of Krafft-Ebing's classification, except when the more recent study of a disease has made it possible to place it among the insanities following an ascertainable lesion of the cerebral substance. Although well aware that his classification of the forms of mental disease into four main groups is open to some extent to the same objections he has advanced against the

classifications based upon etiology and symptomatology, Berkley subdivides mental diseases, as being most convenient for the purpose of the clinician and the student of mental pathology, as follows:

*Group I*, Mental diseases without ascertainable pathological alteration of the brain substance.

*Group II*, Mental diseases sequential to ascertainable alteration of the cerebral substance.

*Group III*, Insanities due to inherited or acquired mental instability.

*Group IV*, States of complete or incomplete retardation of the psychical (and physical) development; and

*Group V*, The psychoses of childhood.

In *Group I*, the author includes melancholia, mania, states of mental stupor (acute curable dementia), states of mental enfeeblement consecutive to the idiopathic insanities, and their different forms. He subdivides melancholia into only five classes: Simple melancholia without delusions, delusional melancholia, hypochondriacal melancholia, agitated melancholia, and stuporous melancholia. Mania is described as (a) simple, (b) typical, (c) chronic. As a subtype Berkley also adds acute hallucinatory confusional insanity.

The states of psychical enfeeblement consecutive to the acute forms of insanity are grouped as follows: (a) Forms with slight mental weakness, (b) chronic delusional insanity, and (c) terminal or secondary dementia, agitated and passive.

*Group II* consists of progressive paralysis of the insane, syphilitic insanity, senile insanities, organic dementia, and three subgroups: (a) Intoxication insanities, (b) insanities following bacterial and toxalbumic poisoning, and (c) insanities following autogenic poisoning.

Progressive paralysis of the insane is described under four forms: The excited, the depressive, the demented, and the mixed forms.

The forms of syphilitic insanity are a transient furibund mania, a delusional syphilitic insanity, a progressive dementia attended by paralyses, and a syphilitic epilepsy.

Senile insanities are divided into presenile and senile varieties. The presenile insanities have excited, depressed, and confused forms. The senile insanities are subdivided into the depressed, the excited, and the confused forms, senile dementia and senile epilepsy.

The author describes the following varieties of organic dementia: (a) Consecutive to arterial lesion, (b) after abscess of the brain, (c) following hydrocephalus internus, (d) post-meningitic dementia, (e) syphilitic dementia, (f) dementia following disseminated sclerosis, (g) dementia consecutive to cerebral tumors, (h) dementia following trauma and insolation.

The intoxication insanities include those following alcoholic, opium, cocaine, and other forms of intoxication.

The insanities following bacterial and toxalbumic poisoning are divided into (a) the insanities of the puerperal period, (b) delirium acutum, and (c) the febrile deliria and psychoses.

*Group III* is made up of the insanities of the psychical degenerate, namely, chronic progressive paranoia, and the periodic insanities, with a subgroup consisting of the psychoses accompanying or following constitutional neuroses, as follows: Epileptic insanities, psychoses accompanying or following neurasthenia, and psychoses accompanying or following hysteria.

Berkley describes chronic progressive paranoia as having two forms, the early and the late paranoia, and two varieties, paranoia

simplex and paranoia hallucinatoria. These two varieties are subdivided again into the persecutory, the religious, the erotic, and the ambitious forms.

The periodic insanities are periodic mania, periodic melancholia, circular insanity, menstrual insanity, alcoholic periodical insanity, and periodical drunkenness.

Of the psychoses following or accompanying constitutional neurones, epileptic dementia, mania, stupor and automatism are the most important. Neurasthenia and hysteria and their psychoses are considered under this grouping.

*Group IV* is made up of states of arrested development, *i. e.*, idiocy, cretinism, and imbecility.

*Group V* consists of the psychoses of childhood.

As will be seen, Berkley's classification is much more simple than many previous ones. Being based, as far as our present knowledge of mental disease permits, on the morbid anatomy, this classification will suffer fewer changes as our knowledge increases than those classifications based on symptomatology or etiology.

The author considers each form of mental disease in a general way, and then discusses in detail its etiology, pathology, clinical picture, and treatment. He writes in a very pleasant style and presents the subjects comprehensively and interestingly. To the general practitioner, who is usually the first to see and treat the patient suffering from mental disorder, as well as to the alienist, this work will prove very valuable.

There is an interesting *addendum* to *Group IV* on cranial measurements and the stigmata of degeneration, and also two short chapters on the influence of tropical climates upon neurotic individuals, and on the psychoses peculiar to tropical climates.

The book is finely illustrated with original plates in black and white and colors, and photographs, and is one of which both the author and the publisher should be proud.

BONAR.

**THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM: A MANUAL FOR PRACTITIONERS.** By Joseph Collins, M.D., Professor of Nervous and Mental Diseases in the New York Post-Graduate School; Visiting Physician to the New York City Hospital. 8vo, 622 pages. Illustrated. William Wood & Company. 1900.

If any work could be said to meet a long felt want, the present volume under consideration lays claim to fulfill this mission. The subject was one that stood in crying need for an exponent, and an able one. It has found both. The long-suffering patient, the perplexed neurologist and the medical profession in general have been the gainers by its production.

It is not claimed that a better work could not be written on the subject, but it certainly is true that a better one does not at the present time exist.

The work is divided into three parts, with a sum total of 49 chapters. In part one, the author discusses in two very able and suggestive chapters the Causes and Origination of Diseases of the Nervous System and their Prevention. The ordinary discussion of these topics is so frequently conducted in a dry-as-dust, matter-of-hearsay sort of manner, that it is a pleasure to find that Dr. Collins has infused into them something of a living interest, drawn from a large experience. Especially commendable is the handling of syphilis as a cause of nervous